

with which it seemed to be associating. The locality was dry and somewhat elevated, with a growth of high hard-wood trees and but little underbrush. With its companions, the bird kept chiefly among the top-most branches where I watched it for twenty minutes until, leaving the Parulas, it gradually descended into the lower branches to some fourteen feet from the ground, when I shot it.

It measured: length 4.60, spread of wings 7.55 inches. Its stomach contained insects only. The largest ova in the ovary were about the size of No. 12 shot.—EDWIN H. EAMES, *Seymour, Conn.*

**An Albino Blackpoll Warbler.**—A male specimen of *Dendroica striata* taken by the writer at Upper Chichester, Delaware Co., Penn., May 12, 1888, during migration, displays such a remarkable variation of plumage as to merit special mention.

The entire crown, with the exception of three or four small black feathers over the eyes, is pure white, the edges of the feathers tipped with cream color which is more decided fringing the neck. The upper tail-coverts and rump are pure white, extending high up on the back and passing irregularly through the interscapulars and joining the white on back of neck and crown; rather silky across the rump. The interscapulars form an irregular bar across the shoulders. The scapulars and tertiaries are sparsely spotted with white, most prominent on the right side. The sides of breast are streaked as usual, although of a rusty color, rather obsolete as they approach the chin which is pure white. The throat and breast are ochroleucous. Otherwise the plumage is natural. The upper and lower mandibles, legs and feet, are deep yellow. The white feathers are immaculate from the quills out, none being edged or spotted with the natural colors.—J. HARRIS REED, *Ridley Park, Penn.*

*Cistothorus palustris marianæ* on the Coast of Georgia.—Of seven Long-billed Marsh Wrens taken by Mr. W. W. Worthington at various dates during November and December, 1887, and January, 1888, on Sapelo Island, Georgia, six prove to belong to the lately described *C. p. marianæ* Scott. The seventh bird is a typical *palustris*.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Capture of the Brown-headed Nuthatch near Elmira, N. Y.**—While making some observations on the migration of birds, this spring, for the Division of Economic Ornithology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, I had the good fortune to procure a specimen of *Sitta pusilla*, Brown-headed Nuthatch. I can find no record of its being taken in New York State before, and Dr. A. K. Fisher, of the Department, to whom I sent the bird for examination, says he can find no record of its being taken in our State. The bird is a fine adult male, and was taken at the Mountain House near this city, May 24, 1888.—EDWARD SWIFT, *Elmira, N. Y.*

**Impeded Migration and Destruction of Birds at Chicago.**—Usually at this time of year (May 20) the small land birds have passed us on their

northward migration, but this spring the weather has been so unfavorable that they have been much delayed, the Warblers, especially, and have suffered great loss of life.

While it is usual to see many of these birds passing from tree to tree in the city, this spring on May 12 they were observed in great numbers scattered over the ground in open lots, and on the larger prairies within the city. Many were likewise noticed in the thronged thoroughfares in the business part of the town where some were run down by passing vehicles, and others met their death under the feet of pedestrians. They would permit a close approach, but when almost stepped upon would make a spasmodic effort to mount into the air, only to find themselves dropping back to the ground again, helpless, weak, and benumbed by the cold. This strange effect of the weather on the birds extended over many miles of country and across Lake Michigan to the east. The shores between Lake Forest, Evanston, and Chicago were bestrewn with lifeless birds which had been washed up by the waves.

Up to May 11 the weather, as recorded in my diary, was very changeable with spells of rain and cold. On that day it became bright, the mean temperature of the twenty-four hours being about 70° F., wind N. W., with a velocity of about sixteen miles an hour. This favorable day brought with it the usual influx of migrants from the south. They were especially numerous, flying all day, and at night the notes of Warblers were plainly heard on the streets below. But May 12 a decided fall in the temperature (the mean was 42° F.) with alternate cloudiness and sunshine, and a wind blowing about twenty-four miles an hour caught the birds en route and checked their further efforts to proceed north. On this day a few minutes' observation on the ground in the nearest vacant lot or street would reveal Black-and-yellow, Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, with an occasional male and female of the American Redstart, and to make the sight more pleasing the gorgeously colored male of the Scarlet Tanager. Not satisfied with such observations, on the next day, May 13, with the thermometer ranging between 34-45° F., I made a trip of a few hours with Mr. H. K. Coale to the south of the city where the houses are not built so closely, and found the birds similarly distributed.

With the exception of the White-bellied Swallow, which was seen flying South in small flocks, and the Black-and-white Creeper which was noticed engaged in its usual mission of climbing up the trunks of trees, the following birds were all noticed on the ground along our line of travel:

<i>Tyrannus tyrannus.</i>	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica.</i>
<i>Dendroica maculosa.</i>	<i>Dendroica castanea.</i>
<i>Setophaga ruticilla.</i>	<i>Dendroica coronata.</i>
<i>Sylvania pusilla.</i>	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus.</i>
<i>Dendroica virens.</i>	<i>Regulus satrapa.</i>
<i>Dendroica æstiva.</i>	<i>Sialia sialis.</i>
<i>Dendroica palmarum.</i>	<i>Actitis macularia.</i>

Troglodytes ædon.	Zonotrichia albicollis.
Empidonax minimus.	Zonotrichia leucophrys.
Galeoscoptes carolinensis.	Seiurus aurocapillus.
Merula migratoria.	Vireo olivaceus.
Turdus ustulatus swainsonii.	Seiurus noveboracensis.
Geothlypis trichas.	Tachycineta bicolor.
Geothlypis philadelphia (♀).	Anthus ludovicianus.
Harporhynchus rufus.	Mniotilta varia.

It is hardly necessary to state that many of the above species are commonly found on the ground, but all of these birds were profoundly affected by the weather, allowing an approach which would be next to impossible under ordinary conditions. The Warblers could easily have been taken in a small hand net.—JOSEPH L. HANCOCK, *Chicago, Illinois*.

**Reason or Instinct?**—I made some observations last summer on the habits of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) which, if not showing reason, certainly show a degree of sympathy and kindness worthy of imitation by animals of a higher order. Last August (1887) on an old farm in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, my attention was attracted by the notes of a Blue Jay, not the ordinary cry, which could be heard at almost any time, as they are very numerous there, but a series of regular calls followed by answers from a neighboring tree. There was something so peculiarly suggestive of a communication of thought about the sound, that I went to the place, and saw an old Blue Jay perched on a fence some distance from a tree where there were several others.

On my nearing the bird, the calls from the tree became more frequent and loud, changing from a low, pleasant, communicative tone to a shrill alarm which became more frequent and intense as I approached. Thinking that he must be injured in some way, I went cautiously up to him when I found that he was at least partially blind. The eyes were blurred and dim, and the lids nearly closed. I had little difficulty in catching him and found him to be an old and helpless creature with scarcely a vestige of his former beauty. The beautiful blue feathers were much faded, in fact, the general appearance of the bird was so different as to be apparent at a glance. The claws were very much worn, the bill dulled, and the primaries and tail-feathers ragged. Every feature suggested old age and feebleness. Yet he was cared for and watched as tenderly as was ever a young bird in the nest. No sooner had I caught him than there were at least a dozen Jays close at hand, whose sympathy and interest were manifested as plainly as could be without words. After a thorough examination, I liberated him, when he flew in the direction of the sound of the others but did not succeed in alighting among the smaller branches of the tree and finally settled on a large limb near the ground. I saw him every day after that (from August 10 to August 17), and never did his companions desert him; some one of them being always near and warning him of approaching danger; whereupon he would fly in the direction indicated by the